



TAKE CARE OF TEXAS: EDUCATOR MATERIALS

## LESSON PLAN

# Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

### Objectives:

Students develop an understanding of ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

### Prerequisites:

At least a week before this lesson, assign your students homework—to bring various items that can be reused, reduced, or recycled. For example, plastic bottles, papers, aluminum cans, paper bags, cardboard boxes, etc.

### Duration:

45 minutes

### Materials:

- Various items to sort between reuse, reduce, and recycle
- Actions Steps to Conserving student sheet
- Conservation Video Storyboard student sheet
- Take Care of Texas: What Do I Do With It Now? brochure
- Take Care of Texas: What Items Can I Recycle? brochure

### Introduction:

Group students into pairs or small groups. Give each group a copy of What Do I Do With It Now? and What Items Can I Recycle? brochures to help students discuss what items should be recycled. Introduce the different stations labeled “Reuse”, “Reduce”, and “Recycle” and explain that students will take the items brought in and sort them between the stations. Students can use the brochures to help with the sort. Have students explain their reasoning behind their choices.

### Procedure:

Pass out the Action Steps to Conserving student sheet to groups. Have each group discuss some action steps the community can take to reduce, reuse, and recycle. This can include turning off lights, carpooling, planting trees, etc. Have each group write at least three action steps for each category.

When groups have at least three items in each category, pass out the Conservation Video Storyboard student sheet to individuals. Students will choose at least one action step and complete the storyboard showing how someone could complete the step. Students can challenge themselves by including more than one action step but no more than three.



LP26 (3/25)

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**EXTENSION:** If students are in grades 6-8, consider challenging the students to participate in the Take Care of Texas Video contest. Students can use the storyboard created in this lesson to create a 30 second PSA style video to submit. Visit the [Take Care of Texas video contest webpage](#) for more information.

## Glossary:

- **Reduce** – prevention of waste by eliminating the use of energy, water, materials, and toxic products to create products. This option is sometimes called source reduction because it reduces waste at the source.
- **Reuse** – using something again and again until it can't be used anymore. Reuse keeps a product in its original form, while recycling turns the product's material into a new resource for manufacturing
- **Recycle** – the collection and processing of materials that would otherwise be thrown away as trash and turning them into new products.
- **Waste** – any unwanted, discarded, or abandoned material or product that is no longer needed or used for its intended purpose.

## Applicable TEKS:

- **4<sup>th</sup> Grade** – §112.15.b. 1A,B; 2A,B; 3A; 5A; 11B.
- **5<sup>th</sup> Grade** – §112.16.b. 1A,B; 2A,B; 3A; 5A; 11.
- **6<sup>th</sup> Grade** -- §112.17.b. 1A,B; 2A,B; 3A; 5A; 11B.
- **7<sup>th</sup> Grade** -- §112.18.b. 1A,B; 3A; 5A.

## References:

- Take Care of Texas - [What Do I Do With It Now?](https://takecareoftexas.org/resources/what-do-i-do-it-now) <https://takecareoftexas.org/resources/what-do-i-do-it-now>
- Take Care of Texas - [What Items Can I Recycle?](https://takecareoftexas.org/resources/how-recycle-1) <https://takecareoftexas.org/resources/how-recycle-1>
- Take Care of Texas - [Video Contest webpage](https://takecareoftexas.org/education/take-care-texas-video-contest) <https://takecareoftexas.org/education/take-care-texas-video-contest>

# Action Steps to Conserving Student Sheet

Group Members: \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions:** Discuss with the group action steps someone can take to reduce, reuse, and recycle. List at least three action steps under each category.

**REDUCE**

**REUSE**

**RECYCLE**



# Conservation Video Storyboard Student Sheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions:** Choose one to three action steps from the Action Steps for Conserving student sheet and create a video storyboard showcasing how someone can complete the chosen action steps in the real world.

